

## Levites tune up for the Third Temple

“The heads of the Leviim: Hashabiah, Sherebiah, Yeshua son of Kadmiel, and their brothers served opposite them, singing praise and thanksgiving hymns by the ordinance of David the man of Hashem —served opposite them in shifts;

EZRA-NEHEMIAH 12:24 (THE ISRAEL BIBLE)



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APRIL 26, 2024

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**O**n Thursday, the third intermediary day of Passover, Levites gathered in Jerusalem to reenact their musical role in the Temple. A group of about two dozen Levites gathered in the Old City to practice their singing while wearing garments designed for use by the Temple musicians in the Third Temple.



Singing led to dancing, celebrating the joy of the Biblical feast.

### Levites Celebrating in the Old City of Jerusalem on Passover



The Levites also blew silver trumpets (<https://israel365news.com/318954/watch-sanhedrin-performs-temple-blowing-shofars-silver-trumpets-jubilee/>) that had been prepared for use in the Third Temple.



Traditionally, Temple musicians (<https://israel365news.com/376080/levites-sing-at-temple-mount-watch/>) were selected from the tribe of Levi. The Zohar explains that the Levites were selected to sing in the Temple because the name Levi means to accompany, and their music would cause others to come close to God. In the days that the Temples stood in Jerusalem, the Levites sang on the 15 steps (<https://israel365news.com/355506/watch-600-levites-rehearse-for-third-temple-service/>)—corresponding to the 15 Songs of Ascent (<https://israel365news.com/347656/levite-sings-song-of-ascents-on-the-stairs-leading-to-holy-of-holies/>) in Psalms 15—that led from the Ezrat Nashim (“Court of Women”) to the Ezrat Yisrael (“Court of Israelites”). The Mishna states that there were never less than 12 Levites standing on the platform, but their number could be increased indefinitely. While ordinarily, no minor was permitted to enter the Azarah (“Courtyard”) to take part in the service, the young Levites (<https://israel365news.com/307703/watch-music-of-king-davids-time-to-be-recreated-for-third-temple-05-16/>) were permitted to join in the singing to “add sweetness to the sound” but were not permitted to stand on the same platform with the adult Levites (Talmud Erchin 2:6).

In the Bible, the tribe of Levi included Moses and Aaron. Kohanim (priests) are descendants of Aaron and his descendants became a subset of the tribe of Levi. The other members of the tribe were chosen by God to forfeit their portions of land in Israel and to serve in the Temple. The Levites performed various functions in the Temple including guarding and serving all the musical needs.

Jewish communities are scrupulous about perpetuating the status of the Levites, which is passed from father to son. Only Jewish men whose fathers were Levites are considered eligible. Comprising about 4% of the total Jewish population, they are recognized for conspicuous honors in religious services

and their status as Levites is inscribed on their gravestones.

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The Gaon of Vilna (an 18th-century Torah sage) said that the Temple music would be the last secret to be revealed before the Messiah.

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On Saturday Morning, October 7, as Israel celebrated the final day of the Sukkot holiday, Hamas terrorists launched a massive and vicious surprise attack on Israel's southern towns and cities, murdering hundreds of innocent men, women and children in their homes and synagogues and taking dozens of hostages. Israel's defense forces and emergency services are fighting to regain control of southern Israel. The full extent of the losses are still unknown.



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